

Ranking Member Ralph Hall (R-TX)

2/28/2007

Opening Statement for markup of

- **H.R. 85**, *Energy Technology Transfer Act*
- **H.R. 1068**, *To amend the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991*
- **H.R. 1126**, *To reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988*
- **H.R. 363**, *Sowing the Seeds through Science and Engineering Research Act*

Mr. Chairman, thank you for calling this markup today. We have before us today 4 bills that were passed by this committee in the 109th Congress, and I look forward to their easy passage again today. The continued bipartisan support for these bills reflects their broad appeal and the fact that they are good bills that are good for the country.

The National Academy of Science's Rising above the Gathering Storm and the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) have emphasized the importance of supporting high-risk research, young researchers, and research infrastructure in the U.S. to ensure that the next generation of high-tech industries and products are developed in the U.S. H.R. 363 is a step in the right direction. I thank the Chairman for his willingness to work with us on improving this legislation and recommend a "yes" vote for the managers' amendment and for the underlying measure.

As the Chairman has already mentioned, Mrs. Biggert has been instrumental in getting a high-performance computing bill through the Committee, and the full House for that matter, in two previous Congresses, and I applaud her and Mr. Baird for their persistence. I recommend a "yes" vote on H.R. 1068 and trust the Senate will follow suit when it is sent to them once again.

I am happy to see Mr. Lipinski and Mr. Ehlers continuing former Representative Hart's lead in their continuing effort to reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988. This is another bill that has been passed twice by our Committee, and the full House and I also recommend a "yes" vote for H.R. 1126.

I would also recommend a "yes" vote for Rep. Biggert and Rep. Miller's bill, H.R. 85 that will provide for the establishment of centers to encourage demonstration and commercial application of advanced energy methods and technologies. I understand they will be offering an amendment in the nature of a substitute that makes technical corrections which I will support as well.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to these bills moving to the floor and being passed. With that I yield back the balance of my time.